Introductory Boom Whacker Lesson Plan

Materials:

Sheet music to Sound of Music**,** CD and/or DVD piano/keyboard Set of Boom Whackers/Bells Pictures of SOLFAGE Hand Signs

Procedure:

Teach *“Doe, a Deer”* from the Sound of Music , depending on age of students, using rote learning or following notation. Discuss, with older students, the meanings of the words and how they are the syllables of the music alphabet, not the lyrics that *sound* like the syllables. Great time to introduce SOLFAGE hand signs, too, after students know the words/melody. With younger students, visual aids of pictures can help with memorization. Show the clip from the movie and make sure the students are comfortable with the words and singing *before* adding the instruments.

Instruct that the instruments are to be struck ONLY ON THEIR OWN BODY. Allow them to try striking their hand, their leg, the back of their shoes, etc. Give them time to experiment. Let students discuss the length of the tubes and why they make various pitches. Notice there are TWO red tubes, but one is high and one is low----introduce term OCTAVE when age appropriate. Bells are color-coordinated, also.

Assign the bells/tubes and sing the song slowly, allowing students to play as others sing. After several attempts, switch students and repeat. Divide in three groups and add hand motions for SOLFAGE. When up to the tempo of the CD, add movement and continue to improvise as students discover new ways to play the Boom Whackers!